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Prevention of armed conflict

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 6 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, dated 20 January 2017, to the parliaments of the European States, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 31 and 108.

(Signed) V. Churkin



Annex to the letter dated 6 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the State Duma to the parliaments of the European States, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

From 16 to 20 January 2017, an exhibition of photographs by journalists depicting events occurring over the last two years in the Syrian Arab Republic was held at the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. On display was an extraordinary collection of works of rare emotional power.

Many of the 52 photographs in the exhibition had not previously been available for public viewing. Taken in the long-suffering Syrian Arab Republic by war correspondents risking their lives, these images serve as documentary evidence of the bloody tragedy that the Syrian people are now enduring as they struggle against the terrorists of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Nusrah Front, organizations banned in the Russian Federation and numerous other countries. These photographs bear eloquent testimony to the brotherhood in arms of the Russian and Syrian forces as they carry out their military duty, cooperating closely on behalf of peace, tranquillity and the total elimination of the terrorist threat on Syrian soil. Photojournalists recorded the liberation of the cities of Aleppo and Palmyra from terrorists; the daily routine in the military, including at the Humaymim Base, where the aviation unit of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation is located; and the day-to-day life of civilians suffering from terrorist attacks, hunger and a lack of medicine. Hope for a speedy end to the fighting in Syria is visible in the eyes of children going to a school that has been restored, and in the eyes of women and elderly people receiving humanitarian aid from members of the Russian military, who are risking their lives to defeat humanity's most ruthless enemy — international terrorism and its facilitators.

The deputies of the State Duma call upon the parliaments of the European States, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to host the exhibition on their premises, thus making it accessible to parliamentarians. The deputies of the State Duma hope that this initiative will enjoy the support of all those who genuinely cherish freedom of speech and the right to information and who are not merely advocating for a speedy end to the conflict in and around the Syrian Arab Republic, but acting to achieve it.

V. V. Volodin
President of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation
Moscow, 20 January 2017